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WASHINGTON--A HOUSE ARMED SERVICES SUBCOMMITTEE VOTED TODAY THAT HARD-PRESSED AND OVERWORKED U.S. SPIES SHOULD PERIODICALLY GET A GOVERNMENT SUBSIDIZED VACATION.

FOLLOWING A PITCH MADE BY DIRECTOR RICHARD HELMS AND OTHER TOP CIA OFFICIALS IN BEHALF OF THE BELEAGUERED AGENT WHO SERVES OVERSEAS, THE SUBCOMMITTEE APPROVED LEGISLATION THAT WOULD REVAMP AGENCY PERSONNEL PRACTICES AND POLICIES.

ONE OF THE BILL'S KEY PROVISIONS WOULD PERMIT THE AGENCY TO PERIODICALLY SEND ITS OVERSEAS BASED AGENTS SOME PLACE WHERE THEY CAN RELAX AND GET AWAY FROM THE "CONDITIONS" WHICH PROMPTED THE NEED FOR RELAXATION IN THE FIRST PLACE.

THE MEASURE WOULD AUTHORIZE SUCH A GOVERNMENT-PAID TRIP ONCE EVERY TWO YEARS OR TWICE EVERY THREE YEARS.

THE MEASURE WOULD ALSO AUTHORIZE THE EMPLOYE TO TAKE ALONG HIS FAMILY IF IT WAS WITH HIM AT HIS DUTY POST. THE GOVERNMENT WOULD PAY TRAVEL EXPENSES FOR THE EMPLOYE AND HIS FAMILY BUT WOULD NOT PAY FOR THE VACATION ITSELF.

HELMS' TESTIMONY WAS NOT MADE PUBLIC. BUT THE AGENCY'S JUSTIFICATION FOR THE REQUEST WAS SPELLED OUT IN A LETTER THAT ACCOMPANIED THE LEGISLATION WHEN IT WAS SENT TO CONGRESS LAST APRIL.

WRITTEN BY HELMS' PREDECESSOR, ADM. W.F. RABORN, IT STATED THAT ONLY THOSE AGENTS SERVING AT CERTAIN DESIGNATED HARDSHIP POSTS WOULD BE ELIGIBLE FOR THE SPECIAL VACATIONS.

RABORN SAID THE OPERATIVES WOULD USUALLY GO TO AN AREA WHERE THEY COULD "RELAX AND OBTAIN NEEDED FREEDOM FROM CLIMATIC AND OTHER CONDITIONS WHICH CAUSED HIS POST OR ASSIGNMENT TO BE DESIGNATED AS A HARDSHIP POST."

RASORN CITED AN EXAMPLE. AN EMPLOYE STATIONED SOMEWHERE ON THE HOT AND HUMID WEST COAST OF AFRICA COULD GO TO THE CANARY ISLANDS OR POSSIBLY CAPETOWN, SOUTH AFRICA, HE SAID.

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